

LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE: **April 26, 2005**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 4

CONSENT:

REGULAR: **X**

CLOSED SESSION:

(Confidential)

ACTION: **X**

INFORMATION:

ITEM TITLE: **Donation to the Lynchburg Historical Foundation**

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt a resolution approving the donation of \$40,000 to the Lynchburg Historical Foundation to be used for the preservation of the *Marshall* packet boat, construction of a structure to house the boat and historical interpretation of the site.

SUMMARY: The *Marshall*, best known for carrying Stonewall Jackson's coffin from Lynchburg to Lexington, was placed in Riverside Park and dedicated on October 13, 1936 as part of Lynchburg's Sesquicentennial Celebration. Over the past sixty eight years, the boat has been exposed to the weather and received little maintenance. As a result the *Marshall* has severely deteriorated. Parks and Recreation staff is working in partnership with the Lynchburg Historical Foundation (LHF) to protect the packet boat from further deterioration and preserve the *Marshall* as an important piece of Lynchburg's history.

The cost for preservation of the *Marshall* and construction of a protective structure is estimated at \$100,000. Staff proposes that the City donate \$40,000 to the LHF. These funds are currently available in the capital improvement fund and were appropriated by Council for this purpose in FY 05. The LHF is committed to raising the additional \$60,000 in donations of in-kind services and cash. The LHF will assume responsibility for managing the project, in coordination with Parks and Recreation staff. This allows LHF to maximize the volunteer efforts and in-kind donations. The project will be completed in 2007 in time for the Jamestown celebration.

The structure design is complete, provided by C.L. Lewis and Company, Inc. as a donation to the project. The structure is sensitive to the history of the boat in choice of materials. The structure is enclosed with decorative fencing on three sides, a solid back panel and a cedar shake roof. The solid panel will be painted in a mural type scene for purposes of historical interpretation. The packet boat will be cleaned with soda and treated with a preservative to prevent further rusting. The project will also include signage for interpretative purposes and to recognize major contributors to the project.

At the March 22, 2005 work session, City Council authorized the City Manager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and LHF. The MOU is under review by both organizations for final approvals and signatures. The resolution under consideration authorizes the donation of the designated capital funds to the LHF to complete this project.

PRIOR ACTION(S): Work session, March 22, 2005; the donation was approved by the four Council members present, however, the donation requires the affirmative vote of five Council members.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$40,000 Capital Improvement Program, Project P0035, appropriated, FY05

CONTACT(S): Kay Frazier, 455-5868

ATTACHMENT(S): Resolution

REVIEWED BY: lkp

Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED that the City donates \$40,000 to the Lynchburg Historical Foundation to support the preservation and historical interpretation of the packet boat, *Marshall* located in Riverside Park. The funds are appropriated in the FY 2005 Capital Improvement budget.

Adopted:

Certified: _____
Clerk of Council

060L